

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 131222

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

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PM/AE:ATURRENTINE (SUBS)

ACDA:CHENKIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, SG, UK

SUBJ: REPLY TO MINISTER HESELTINE'S QUESTIONS ON LICENSING
US LAUNCHER TECHNOLOGY

REF: LONDON 07373, 4703, 6447, 6658

1. YOU MAY INFORM MINISTER HESELTINE THAT DEFINITIVE

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PAGE 02 STATE 131222

ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE IN DEALING WITH THE SITUATION.

3. THE US WISHES TO MAINTAIN NEUTRAL POSTURE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE L3S LAUNCHER. BECAUSE OF THE INTENDED USE OF THE ANSWERS (PARA 5, LONDON 7373) WE FEAR THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF OUR MOTIVATIONS MIGHT BE DERIVED FROM RESPONSES TO THE UK QUESTIONS. THE US DOES NOT WANT TO BE OR APPEAR TO BE A PARTY TO AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERCUT THE L3S, WHICH HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE ESC AS A EUROPEAN PROJECT. EITHER US LAUNCHER (ATLAS/CENTAUR OR THOR/DELTA 2914) WOULD REPRESENT A FULL SUBSTITUTE FOR THE L3S.

4. IF THESE SAME QUESTIONS WERE TO EMMANATE FROM THE ESC RATHER THAN A SINGLE COUNTRY, A MORE FORTHCOMING RESPONSE COULD PROBABLY BE MADE.

5. SUMMARY: THE US POLICY REGARDING L3S DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF COMPLETE NEUTRALITY. THE US DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE ANY MOVE WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS AN US ATTEMPT TO UNDERCUT THE L3S OR AS US COMPLICITY IN A EUROPEAN EFFORT TO DO SO. RUSH

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